



Narrow gauge engine of the Cowichan Valley Railway steams under young train-watchers at the Forest Museum

North of Victoria... Forest Museum

Visitors to Victoria who would like to take an easy half-day outing should consider the drive to the Forest Museum, about 40 miles north of Victoria on Trans-Canada Highway 1. It has nostalgic interest for many adults and a very direct appeal to children.

The museum is a storehouse of equipment from the period before World War I when there were no chain saws to slice through the trees, or bulldozers to carve hillsides into networks of roads for roaring diesel trucks. Then, loggers sometimes worked two or three days on the felling of a single large tree.

The tree was trimmed and cut into smaller sections, then hauled to a rail-head by horse teams or by a steam-driven "donkey"—a stationary engine that pulled the logs with thick metal cables. A steam train would then convey them to the mill.

This logging equipment is now as obsolete as shaving cups in barber shops, but an impressive selection of what was commonly used between 1890 and 1920 can be seen at the Forest Museum.

Located about a mile north of Duncan in the Cowichan Valley (an area still being logged), it is open daily between 10 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. Admission is \$1 for



Pump car is one of several working exhibits that children can operate

adults, 50 cents for children under 16.

At the museum are three operating steam locomotives (all narrow gauge), a variety of rolling stock, and displays of axes, saws, and other hardware used by the early loggers. In the log building are numerous pictures of men and equipment in action.

You can also take a pleasant walk through a patch of forest with 25 different trees identified. □



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